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LETTER DATED 17 SEPTEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter by His Excellency Mr. Radoje Kontic, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

In accordance with Security Council resolution 847 (1993) of 30 June 1993, the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the United Nations protected areas (UNPAs) has been extended until 30 September 1993.

The above-mentioned resolution and other relevant United Nations documents specify that UNPROFOR will remain in the protected areas until an overall political solution is found to the Yugoslav crisis, as well as that their initial mandate will be renewed in case such a settlement is not reached through negotiations.

In my letter of 6 June 1993 I asked you to recommend that the Security Council extend, without fail, UNPROFOR's mandate for the next 12 months. The Security Council accepted your recommendation and adopted a decision on the temporary extension of the mandate of UNPROFOR until 30 September 1993, leaving open the possibility of a new extension, depending on the development of the situation in the protected areas and at the Geneva negotiations.

There is no need to lay special emphasis on the importance of UNPROFOR's presence in the past period since it is precisely UNPROFOR that has made possible the maintenance of a fragile peace and prevented further confrontations and the escalation of the war.

Croatia is, regrettably, brazenly continuing its aggression on territories under United Nations protection despite the most severe condemnation and warnings of the Security Council. The recent aggression of the Croatian Army, only a few days ago, is continuing with unabated intensity and threatening a further conflagration of the conflict and its spread to a broader region. These attacks of the Croatian Army, primarily on the unprotected civilian population of Krajina, constitute a flagrant violation of the Vance Plan on the establishment of the UNPAs and have been committed in a manner which not only violates the agreement reached, but also directly jeopardizes UNPROFOR forces in the field. The consequences of this aggression may, in any case, have an extremely adverse effect on the current efforts being exerted by the participants in the Geneva Conference for establishing a lasting and just peace in the overall territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia supports the Vance Plan and is interested in having it observed and implemented by all parties. We are therefore of the opinion that the latest armed aggression of Croatia against the areas under United Nations protection clearly points to the need for extending UNPROFOR's mandate for the forthcoming period. In view of the fact that the Security Council is shortly to adopt a new decision on the extension of the mandate of UNPROFOR, I should kindly like to ask you to bear in mind the fact that conditions have not been created for terminating this peace operation and that UNPROFOR's presence in the protected areas is an essential factor for creating the necessary conditions for a political settlement of the problem. In this, as in the past, you can count on the full support and assistance of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my deepest respect and gratitude for your peaceful efforts for establishing lasting peace and arriving at a just solution in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

In the hope that our request for the further extension of UNPROFOR's mandate in the protected areas will meet with understanding and approval, allow me to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.

FEDERAL PRIME MINISTER
Radoje KONTIC